

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 11-15, 19 and 20 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 11-16 and 19-22 remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action of May 21, 2007, claims 11-16 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135608 to Hamada et al. ("Hamada") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0184780 to Seo et al. ("Seo"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,961,384 issued to Nemiroff et al. ("Nemiroff"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting claim 11, for example, the Office Action alleges that Hamada discloses a recording medium having information recorded thereon for reproduction on one or more output devices and that the information includes stream files having still pictures, playlist files which order the still pictures and background music to be played, and playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures. The Office Action further alleges that Hamada discloses playlist files having one or more play items and one or more subplay items, wherein each of the subplay items corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of the play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture and a presentation time for the still picture. Each of the play items corresponds to a BGM, each of the subplay items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM. Each playlist mark is also indicated as being associated with only one corresponding still picture. The Office Action alleges that Hamada fails to disclose

the BGM of the subplay item and still pictures of the play item being independently reproduced. Seo is relied upon for disclosing a playlist area that stores at least one subplay item which provides navigation information including at least one still picture from a first file to reproduce, and subplay item providing information for reproducing audio data from a second file. Seo is further relied upon for disclosing audio data being reproduced in either a synchronized or unsynchronized fashion with the still image. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As amended, independent claim 11 defines an apparatus for recording information on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises:

- stream files including still pictures;
- playlist files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and
 - playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures;
 - wherein:
 - each of said playlist files has one or more play items and one or more sub play items,
 - each of said play items corresponds to one or more still pictures,
 - each of said play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,
 - each of said sub play items corresponds to a BGM, each of said sub play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM,
 - each playlist mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture, and
 - the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the sub play items are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

The information stored on the recording medium of independent claim 11 includes stream files having still pictures, playlist files that order the still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played, and playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures. Each playlist file has one or more play items and one or more subplay items. The play items each correspond to one or more still pictures. Each play item also includes start information indicating a presentation start time and end information indicating a presentation end time for the still picture, as well as a presentation time for the still picture. Each of the subplay items corresponds to a BGM and includes start information, end information, and presentation time for the BGM. Each playlist mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture. Furthermore, according to independent claim 11, the still pictures of the play items and the BGM of the subplay items are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

The Office Action alleges that Seo provides an ability to independently reproduce sound and still pictures, and directs reference to paragraph [0042]. Applicants' review of the cited passage has failed to reveal any disclosure or suggestion for the features recited in independent claim 11. According to Seo, a data structure is provided with a playlist area for storing at least one playlist containing at least one play item and at least one subplay item. The play item provides navigation information indicative of at least one still picture to be reproduced, and also provides duration information for displaying the still picture. The subplay item provides navigation information to reproduce audio data from a separate file. Seo indicates that audio data can be reproduced either in a synchronized or unsynchronized fashion with respect to the associated still pictures. Seo, however, appears to be completely silent on the precise meaning of the

synchronization or the details that are covered. Seo merely indicates that the audio data is associated with corresponding still images. Consequently, it does not appear consistent with Seo's disclosure that the audio files could be independently reproduced and controlled with respect to the still pictures. Additionally, since these two files are associated with each other, it does not appear that one can actually be controlled without having any effect on reproduction and/or control of the other. The cited references fail to provide any disclosure or suggestion for features that are now recited in independent claim 11, such as:

the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the sub play items are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 11 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 11, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 11. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 13 defines an apparatus for recording information on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises:

- stream files including still pictures;
- playlist files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and
- playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures;
- wherein:
 - each of said playlist files has one or more play items and one or more sub play items,
 - each of said play items corresponds to one or more still pictures, each of said play items includes start information

indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for a still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,

each of said sub play items corresponds to a BGM, each of said sub play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM,

each playlist mark is associated with one corresponding play item and one still picture included in the corresponding play item, and

the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the sub play items are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

Independent claim 13 recites features that are somewhat similar to those recited in independent claim 11. For example, according to at least one feature of independent claim 13, the apparatus is capable of independently reproducing the pictures of the play items and the BGM of the subplay items without interrupting each other. Further, the still pictures and BGM can be independently controlled without interrupting each other. As previously discussed with respect to independent claim 11, the cited references fail to provide any disclosure or suggestion for these particular features. Rather, Seo merely discusses a general synchronization of the still images.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 13 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 14 depends from independent claim 13, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 13. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 15 defines an information reproducing method for reproducing still picture information from a recording medium. The recording medium contains playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures, and each playlist mark is associated with a single corresponding still picture and only one corresponding playlist. The method comprises the steps:

detecting said start information and said end information;
controlling said presentation time of said still pictures in accordance with said detected start information and end information; and
independently reproducing and controlling the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the sub play items on one or more output devices without interrupting each other.

As previously discussed, the cited references fail to provide any disclosure or suggestion for claimed features such as independently reproducing and controlling the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the subplay items without interrupting each other.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 15 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 16 depends from independent claim 15, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 15. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 19 defines an apparatus for reproducing information recorded on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises:

stream files including still pictures;
playlist files which order still pictures and background music (BGM) to be played; and

playlist marks that correspond to the still pictures;

wherein:

each of said playlist files has one or more play items and one or more sub play items,

each of said play items corresponds to one still picture, each of said play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the still picture, end information indicating a presentation end time for the still picture, and a presentation time of the still picture,

each of said sub play items corresponds to a BGM, each of said sub play items includes start information indicating a presentation start time for the BGM, end information indicating a presentation end time for the BGM, and a presentation time of the BGM,

each playlist mark is associated with only one corresponding still picture, and

the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the sub play items are independently reproduced and controlled without interrupting each other.

Similar to independent claim 11, independent claim 19 recites the features of independently reproducing an controlling the still pictures of the play items and BGM of the subplay items without interrupting each other. As previously discussed, this particular feature is not shown or suggested by the art of record.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 19 is allowable over the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 20 defines an apparatus for reproducing information recorded on a tangible recording medium. The information comprises, in part:

the still pictures of the play items is are independently reproduced and controlled while the BGM of the sub play item is reproduced on the one or more output device when the flag for type of presentation indicates playing with sub play item without interrupting each other.

As previously discussed, such a feature is not shown or suggested by the art of record.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from independent claim 20, and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20. In addition, these claims each introduce novel elements that independently render them patentable over the art of record.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43142X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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